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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

(for the period from 25 September 2001 to 20 March 2002)

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an account of the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) during the past six months in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993.

II. Main developments

2. During the period under review, UNIKOM continued to monitor the Khawr' Abd Allah waterway and the demilitarized zone, which extends 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait along the boundary between the two countries. The situation in the demilitarized zone remained generally calm and UNIKOM carried out its monitoring operations from fixed observation posts and through patrols by land, sea and air. However, UNIKOM helicopter flights remained suspended on the Iraqi side of the border, as they have been since December 1998 (see S/1999/330, para. 2).

3. There were 437 violations of the demilitarized zone, of which six were ground violations, one was a weapons violation, nine were maritime violations and 421 were air violations.

4. The six ground violations included two cases involving an Iraqi vehicle observed on 22 November 2001 and another observed on 29 November 2001, both moving on X-ray Road on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone. The third case involved a group of Iraqi hunters moving on the same road. The fourth case involved an Iraqi woman coming out of the trench located on the Kuwaiti side of the border. The fifth case, which occurred on 12 March 2002, involved a disabled vehicle being repaired by three men and 40 to 50 men in military uniforms sitting on the side of the road at a location inside the demilitarized zone. In the sixth case, a Kuwaiti military vehicle was observed moving inside the demilitarized zone.

5. The weapons violation involved three uniformed Iraqi policemen, including one carrying a rifle, who were observed three kilometres inside the demilitarized zone.

6. Of the nine maritime violations, eight involved Iraqi patrol boats seen operating in Kuwaiti waters and the ninth involved two Iraqi fishing boats that strayed into Kuwaiti waters while fishing in the Khawr' Abd Allah waterway.

7. Most of the 421 air violations involved jet aircraft that were heard, but were flying at altitudes too high to be observed or identified. However, a few jet aircraft were flying low enough to be identified, including Tornado, A-10 and F-18 aircraft. On 19 March, a Gazelle helicopter was observed flying low over the demilitarized zone. Iraqi authorities, who monitor overflights of their territory through national means, continued to hold the view that UNIKOM should report a much higher number of violations and should identify aircraft by type and nationality. Despite the Mission's explanation that it cannot rely on inference or

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supposition in such a matter, and that there are no technical or intelligence means for UNIKOM definitively to identify the overflights, Iraqi authorities continued to complain that the Mission's reporting of air violations was inadequate. UNIKOM has been recording as violations all flights observed or heard over the demilitarized zone, and the 421 violations observed during this reporting period compared to 163 air violations in the previous period.

8. The 45 complaints received during the reporting period were all lodged by Iraq. Most pertained to air violations of Iraqi territory. The most serious complaint was a report according to which, at approximately 1230 hours on 25 February 2002, an Iraqi trying to prevent his camel from approaching the berm near Umm Qasr was allegedly apprehended by four Kuwaiti policemen, forcibly put into a Kuwaiti police vehicle and taken to Kuwait. Iraqi witnesses stated that they heard shots fired by the Kuwaiti police officers during the incident. The Iraqi complaint was passed to the Kuwaiti authorities, who have advised UNIKOM that it is under investigation.

9. The 19 incidents reported by UNIKOM over the past six months included several cases when Iraqi youths threw stones at United Nations vehicles, causing minor damage to one of them. On two occasions, Kuwaiti police officers refused to allow United Nations vehicles to cross at a gate in a fenced area, which constitutes a restriction of the Mission's freedom of movement inside the demilitarized zone. The Senior Kuwaiti Liaison Officer was informed of these incidents and asked to investigate. There was one instance when Kuwaiti civilians shot at members of the Argentine Engineering Unit, who were carrying out road maintenance on the Kuwaiti side of the border. The shots damaged a United Nations vehicle. In another instance, members of the Argentine Logistics Unit observed four Iraqi pick-up trucks carrying equipment that seemed to be anti-aircraft guns inside the demilitarized zone on the Iraqi side of the border.

10. The following two incidents were of particular significance:

(a) On 11 November 2001, a 57-mm anti-aircraft round that was fired from Iraq landed and exploded in Kuwait;

(b) On 25 February 2002, as mentioned in the complaints above, an Iraqi camel herder was allegedly abducted, possibly shot, and taken to Kuwait by four Kuwaiti policemen.

UNIKOM continued to investigate both cases, but learned on 27 March that on 25 March the camel herder had returned to Iraq.

11. One incident involved restriction of the freedom of movement of UNIKOM vehicles and personnel. On 3 February 2002, a UNIKOM shuttle bus transporting local staff of Iraqi nationality from Basrah to UNIKOM headquarters was stopped by Iraqi policemen in civilian clothes. The policemen searched the bus and ordered all passengers to alight. The passengers' personal belongings were searched and an assistant in the UNIKOM Claims Office was found to be in possession of three bottles of whisky. As a result of that finding, the Iraqi police took the staff member to an unknown location, while allowing the UNIKOM bus to continue to UNIKOM headquarters. The staff member returned to work two days later. UNIKOM protested about the incident to the Iraqi authorities, pointing out that this restriction of the freedom of movement of United Nations vehicles and personnel was not consistent with the agreement signed with the Government of Iraq in an exchange of letters, dated 15 April and 20 June 1992.

12. On 15 March 2002, a serious incident occurred owing to a navigational error on the part of a member of UNIKOM personnel, whose vehicle, taking a wrong turn, inadvertently led two vehicles with Kuwaiti licence plates carrying a Venezuelan delegation across the border into Iraqi territory at the crossing point leading to UNIKOM headquarters at Umm Qasr. The Venezuelan officials were on their way to a meeting with the Force Commander at Camp Khor on the Kuwaiti side of the border. Three Iraqi police officers who arrived shortly thereafter drew and cocked their pistols. The Iraqi police quickly allowed the Venezuelan officials to return to Kuwait in their embassy car, but detained an accompanying Kuwaiti municipal official and his Egyptian driver. The Iraqi police departed with them in the Kuwaiti's car to the police station at Umm Qasr. That afternoon, the Force Commander telephoned the Iraqi Chairman of the Coordinating Committee in Baghdad, who agreed to release the two men at the earliest opportunity, through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

13. On 20 March, the driver was released and handed over to the Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq. He confirmed

that he and the Kuwaiti official had been treated well while in detention. However, in spite of subsequent démarches by the United Nations and others urging the Iraqi authorities to release the latter, the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee in Baghdad informed the Force Commander on 20 March that he would be released only in exchange for 13 Iraqis allegedly detained in Kuwait for accidentally crossing the border into Kuwait. On 23 March, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait wrote to me with regard to this case (see S/2002/311). On 27 March, the Force Commander received a call from the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee in Baghdad stating that the Kuwaiti detainee had been released to ICRC in Baghdad.

14. The German medical team continued to provide medical support. During the period under review, the team carried out 20 humanitarian interventions, including 10 evacuations of Iraqi civilians injured by explosions of mines and other ordnance. Mines and unexploded ordnance are still a major danger both inside and outside the demilitarized zone, especially on the Iraqi side, where the majority of the victims are children. During the period under review, a 12-year-old Iraqi girl injured by an unexploded mine died as a result of her wounds. On one occasion, the UNIKOM Security Officer reported that one of three Iraqi youths playing on the other side of the fence surrounding the UNIKOM headquarters threw an object into the compound and ran away. The guard observed that it was an unexploded mortar round, which was subsequently neutralized by the Argentine Engineering Unit. On numerous occasions, injured or sick Iraqis spontaneously appeared at the gates of patrol and observation bases, particularly in the Southern Sector. Many had travelled for quite a long time and over long distances, in the knowledge that they would receive the medical assistance they needed there. In this regard, UNIKOM wishes to pay tribute to the Kuwaiti authorities for allowing United Nations helicopters to fly Iraqi nationals over Kuwaiti air space, thereby saving many lives that could otherwise have been lost.

15. UNIKOM continued to make weekly visits to Umm Qasr harbour without hindrance. At the port, UNIKOM military observers were able to freely observe commodity shipments proceeding normally under the "oil-for-food" programme.

16. In December 2001, boat patrols in the Maritime Sector were suspended, owing to unsafe conditions at the pier and delays in repairs that needed to be undertaken by Iraqi authorities. UNIKOM undertook temporary repairs to address the immediate safety concerns and, on 14 March, was able to use the pier again to resume boat patrols. In the intervening period, while the pier could not be used, UNIKOM compensated with increased air patrols over the maritime area and by covering the area with radar surveillance from the maritime tower on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Negotiations with Iraqi authorities are continuing with regard to the required reconstruction of the pier.

17. UNIKOM continued to maintain close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including visits by the Force Commander to Baghdad and Kuwait City and through the UNIKOM liaison offices in the two capitals. Both Governments continued generally to cooperate with UNIKOM in the conduct of its operations.

18. During the period under review, UNIKOM received visits from high-ranking officials from 21 Member States. The visitors, mainly from troop-contributing countries, came to meet military observers from their respective countries and to familiarize themselves with UNIKOM operations.

III. Organizational matters

19. As at 20 March 2002, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,318, consisting of the following components:

(a) A total of 192 military observers, from Argentina (4), Austria (2), Bangladesh (6), China (11), Denmark (5), Fiji (7), Finland (7), France (11), Ghana (6), Greece (4), Hungary (6), India (6), Indonesia (6), Ireland (6), Italy (4), Kenya (3), Malaysia (6), Nigeria (7), Pakistan (7), Poland (5), Romania (5), the Russian Federation (11), Senegal (5), Singapore (5), Sweden (4), Thailand (6), Turkey (6), the United Kingdom (11), the United States (11), Uruguay (6) and Venezuela (4);

(b) An infantry battalion of 775 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 30 from Argentina;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 14 from Germany;

(g) A total of 221 civilian staff, of whom 57 were recruited internationally and 165 locally.

On 26 November 2001, Major General Miguel Angel Moreno (Argentina) succeeded Major General John A. Vize (Ireland) as Force Commander.

IV. Financial aspects

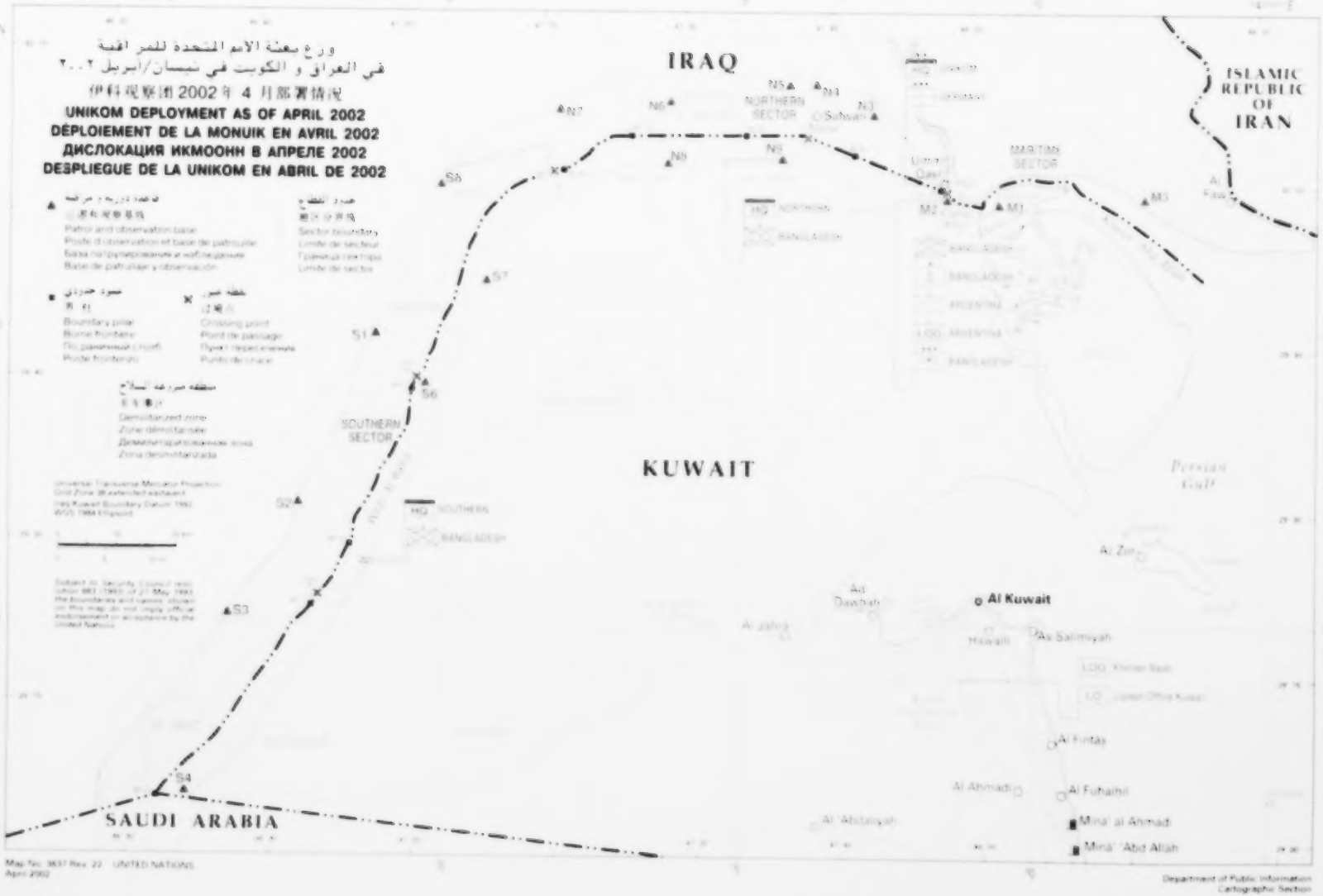
20. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/261 of 14 June 2001, appropriated the amount of $52,815,237 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, subject to the review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to $33,652,640, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 30 April 2002. The budget for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 has been submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration during the second part of its resumed fifty-sixth session.

21. As at 28 February 2002, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM for the period from inception to 30 April 2002 amounted to $14.4 million. The unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $2,001 million.

V. Observations

22. During the period under review, the situation along the border between Iraq and Kuwait remained generally quiet. However, several recent incidents involving civilians who have crossed the border in the demilitarized zone have been a source of tension and concern, including the recent case of a Kuwaiti citizen who crossed the border in a convoy led by a UNIKOM vehicle, which had taken a wrong turn. I welcome the decision of the Government of Iraq on 27 March to release that Kuwaiti national. UNIKOM has otherwise continued to carry out its responsibilities effectively, thereby contributing to the maintenance of calm and stability in the border area. In undertaking these tasks, it continued generally to receive the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

23. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to the former Force Commander, Major General John Vize, to his successor, Major General Moreno, and to the men and women under their command for the manner in which they have discharged their duties. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


ورع بعثة الامم المتحدة للمراقبة
في العراق و الكويت في نيسان/ابريل ٢٠٠٢
伊科观察团 2002 年 4 月部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF APRIL 2002
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK EN AVRIL 2002
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ИКМООНН В АПРЕЛЕ 2002
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN ABRIL DE 2002
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
MARITIME SECTOR
Al Kuwait
As Salimiyah
Al Fintas
Al Ahmadi
Al Fuhaihil
Mina' al Ahmadi
Mina' 'Abd Allah
Persian Gulf
Umm Qasr
Safwan
Az Zur
Ad Dawhah
Al Jahra
Al 'Abdaliyah
Hawalli
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